

Remarks

Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

Claims 5-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Claims 1-15, 18, and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,324,586 of *Johnson* ("*Johnson*").

The examiner has objected to the specification. In response, applicant has amended the specification in accordance with the examiner's suggestions.

The examiner has rejected claims 5-10 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. The examiner has stated that the phrase "a set of clock meta-data" has insufficient antecedent basis. In response, applicant has amended claims 5-10 to recite a first and second set of clock meta-data and to provide proper antecedent bases.

The examiner has stated that claims 16 and 17 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, applicant has amended claim 16 to include all of the limitations of base claim 11 and intervening claim 15. Given that claim 17 depends from amended claim 16, it is submitted that claims 16 and 17 are in a condition for allowance.

Applicant has also amended claims 18 and 19 to depend from allowable amended claim 16. It is therefore submitted that amended claims 18 and 19 are in a condition for allowance.

Applicant submits that amended claim 1 is not anticipated by *Johnson* because *Johnson* does not disclose a distributed system having a time synchronization bridge that coordinates time synchronization on sub-nets by

determining a highest quality clock among a set of local clocks of the sub-nets and transferring a set of timing data packets via the sub-nets in response to the highest quality clock as claimed in amended claim 1. *Johnson* does not determine a highest quality clock and then use timing data packets to synchronize local clocks to that highest quality clock as claimed in amended claim 1. Instead, *Johnson* teaches synchronizing computer system clocks to the same time source - e.g. a GPS time source. (*Johnson*, col. 2, lines 58-63 and col. 5, lines 13-15). For example, *Johnson* discloses a local network of computers, an intranet 68, in which all of the computers synchronize to the same reference signal 20 derived from the same GPS time source 10. (*Johnson*, Figure 6 and col. 6, lines 36-39).

Given that claims 2-10 depend from amended claim 1, it is submitted that claims 2-10 are not anticipated by *Johnson*.

Applicant also submits that amended claim 11 is not anticipated by *Johnson*. Amended claim 11 is a time synchronization bridge that includes limitations similar to the limitations of amended claim 1 including determining a highest quality clock among a set of sub-nets and transferring a set of timing data packets via the sub-nets in response to the highest quality clock. Therefore, the remarks stated above with respect to amended claim 1 and *Johnson* also apply to amended claim 11.

Given that claims 12-15 depend from amended claim 11, it is submitted that claims 12-15 are not anticipated by *Johnson*.

It is respectfully submitted that in view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, the applicable objections and rejections have been overcome.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1078 for any matter in connection with this response, including any fee for extension of time, which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 5-9-05

By: \_\_\_\_\_

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